1121 and the dearness allowance of the coolies was raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 16 with effect from Ist Karkadagam 1120. As these enhancements were sanctioned after the scrutiny of the budget proposals for 1121, the expenditure required at the enhanced rates was not provided for in the current year's budget. An additional allotment of Rs. 350 under "cleaning charges" and Rs. 1,418 under "Dearness Allowance" has become necessary.

Also the rent of the Sanitary Office building, Cranganur, was raised from Rs. 6 to 8 per mensem with effect from Ist Edavam 1120, thus necessitating a provision of Rs. 96 under "rent for the current year" against Rs. 72 provided for in the budget. An additional allotment of Rs. 24 is therefore necessary under this head. No reappropriation is found possible. I request that the amounts may be granted.

CUT MOTION No. 2

Raising the pay of Scavangers

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancchri):* I move that the amount of Rs. 350 under "19—Sanitation and Conservancy and cleaning charges" be reduced by Re. 1 as stated here on the order paper to inquire of the Hon'ble Minister whether his promise made on the floor of the House to favourably consider the question of raising properly the pay of scavengers has been carried out and if not to press upon them to carry out his promise. Regarding the first part I made enquiries myself and I have found out to the Credit of the Hon'ble Minister I am happy to say, Sir, that the promise that he gave on the floor of this House on 30th July 1945 in reply to the suggestion of mine that the pay of these persons engaged in that particular work, not of a very pleasing nature, be raised, has been carried out to some extent. I put forward the suggestion that they (scavengers) be given at least Rs. 30 per mensem but to be modest, sacrifising their interest, though it be, even going to that extent, to be modest, I would even be satisfied if you make it at least Rs. 20 per mensem. The occassion then was for a supplementary demand to raise the pay of some scavengers originally standing at Rs. 9 to Rs. 10 —16 annas for 30 days the Government wanted to give—We did grant that. We also pointed out the niggardly way in which these persons are dealt with. Then also I suggested if not Rs. 30 at least Rs. 20 should be given. And a suitable reaction. I cannot say, but there was reaction I am prepared to say, and for that I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister who has reacted in such a short time by raising the pay from Rs. 10 to 12. There is progress indeed, Sir,—formerly from 9 to 10, now from 10 to 12. We congratulate the Government sincerely for what they have done. But we also note the littleness, the smallness and the niggardliness of the response. Therefore we appeal through this cut motion to raise their pay to the level that is expected of you, that is demanded by us. Understand the problem, that is for doing the particular work of the scavenger if we failed to pay living wages what will happen. It will probably be answered that at present with Rs. 12 the scavenger gets Rs. 28 because there is a dearness allowance of Rs. 16 raised from Rs. 10. But that is dearness allowance, that is not pay. The pay itself must be sufficient to meet both ends meet in normal times. Therefore, considering the nature of the work that they do, considering the class of society from which they come from—the lowest strata,—I am not refering communities and castes, the poorest of the poor—considering all that there must be a more suitable reaction. Raising their pay from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 is not becoming of the Government; if it had been from Rs. 10 to 15, I would have waited for another year to see whether that would again be raised to Rs. 20. Now that they have raised it up only to Rs. 12 their hands must be forced. It is only a sort of innoculation that is administered on the Government to see that quicker reaction follows to the benefit of the poor suffering worker. I hope there will be suitable reaction and I pray for it.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* As has been admitted by the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri when the question was raised about the lowness of the pay of the scavenger Government tried to raise it by Rs. 2 and the present pay is as he said Rs.12 and he gets also Rs. 16 as dearness allowance; so he gets also Rs. 28 in all. I do admit to the pay of the scavengers, especially when the kind of work that they are doing is considered, is rather low. But then when it is the question of revising the pay of menial servants many other considerations have to be taken into account. I will bestow my earnest attention on the matter and see whether I can increase the pay of the scavengers. With this assurance I hope the Hon'ble Member will be satisfied.

Mr. Jos. K. Verghese *(Trichur-South):* On a point of information, Sir.

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മദ്രാസ് പ്രസിഡൻസിയിൽവെച്ച് കൊച്ചിയിലാണ് ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളംതോട്ടികർക്കുകൊടുക്കുന്നതെന്ന് ഗവർമ്മേണ്ടിന് അറിയാമോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പറമ്പിലോനപ്പൻ: അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽതന്നെ ഈ ശമ്പളം പോരാ എന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Hear; hear.

I thank the Hon'ble Minister for the assurance. I do not want to press my cut motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn

Demand put and carried

29—25—Ayurveda—Miscellaneous

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* I rise to move an additional allotment of Rs. 35,212 under "25—Ayurveda Miscellaneous". There were some complaints from the public regarding the mismanagment of the K. A. Samajam Hospital at Cheruthuruthi in the year 1112. On enquiry it was found that the complaints were true. Accordingly Government lands and the hospital buildings were resumed by Government. Some of these buildings were put up by the Samajam and some were constructed out of funds, donated by the public. Representations have since been received from the Samajam authorities that they may be given compensation for the hospital buildings. After due consideration of the matter it is proposed to give the Samajam the cost of the buildings including those constructed out of donation received from the public. The Samajam authorities were offered the following conditions for which they were agreeable.

(*i*) The Samajam would be given the cost of the gifted buildings also except that the old Village Office building, provided the Samajam authorities would execute an indemnity bond in favour of the Cochin Government against any future possible claims by donors. Provision should be made in the bond that if the State Government or a Court of Law decide that the donors should be indemnified the Samajam should be agreeable to refund the amount;

(*ii*) the Cochin Government would be acquiring the buildings for full security of title; and

(*iii*) the usual additional compensation of 15 per cent payable on compulsory acquisition would have to be foregone by the Samajam as the transaction is really a negotiated purchase. But in view of the fact that the Samajam is still conducting a charitable institution for medical relief close to the State boundary it will be given a lump sum of Rs. 1,000 (rupees one thousand) as solatium, as a matter of grace.

The buildings were got valued and their cost is estimated at Rs. 34,212. An amount of Rs. 35,212 is required for payment to the Samajam authorities. There is no provision for this in the budget. Therefore, an additional allotment of Rs. 35,212 is necessary under "25—Ayurveda—Miscellaneous".

There is a cut motion on this demand by the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri. The idea of the cut motion is to see that a lying-in-hospital is soon started in the place.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I may be allowed to make a correction; I don't want a lying-in-hospital, but only an ordinary hospital with sufficient number of beds.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* I may say that at the moment of settling the differences between the Samajam authorities and the Government, this has been in my mind and I have already directed that as soon as the Samajam buildings are vacated, they will be utilised for starting a good hospital at the border of the State.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Regarding the first part, negotiations?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* The negotiations are over and as soon as the grant is sanctioned, indemnity bond will be executed and it is expected that the whole thing will be over soon, say in two or three weeks' time.

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